

REMARKS:

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested under 37 CFR § 1.116 because it places the application in condition for immediate allowance, or, in the alternative, presents the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

In the Final Office Action mailed on June 6, 2003, the Examiner objected claims 16-20 and 23-24 due to certain informalities, rejected claims 1, 8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,297,968 in view of Cooper et al., U.S. Patent No. 4, 921,437; rejected claims 2-5 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. '968 in view of Perino et al., and rejected claims 9, 17, 18, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. '968 in view of Kamono et al.

Claims 1-5, 8-20 and 23-28 were pending in the application. Claims 10-15 and 25-28 have been allowed. Applicants have canceled all of the rejected claims such that only Claims 10-15 and 25-28 remain. Applicants therefore submit that the remaining pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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